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TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25, 1913.

A TOAST TO THE BRIDE.

The hearts of the nation this morning are filled with good wishes to the happy White House bride and the lucky groom who has won her love. We hope that all the days of their journey may be no less splendid and wonderful than this day of wedding. They go forth from the mansion of the highest honor we can bestow. May they dwell in a mansion of happiness and joy and achievement.

In millions of homes today there will be words of thanks for "Miss Jessie." In big cities, in lonely farm-houses in the interior of the country, on the prairies and in the mountains, good wives and robust husbands will, from the depths of experience breathe silent messages of good will. Girls will dream of the wonder of being wed in the White House, and hope that all the dreams of the young people may come to fruition. The wedding bells are ringing over the whole wide land to honor the daughter of the President.

Yet this honor is not hers just because she is lucky in her father. There is a due democratic simplicity about the daughter, too. She has not allowed the glamour of high place to smother the deeper personal glory of her marriage. There will be guests to represent royalty, but most of all there will be friends who come for friendship's sake. The atmosphere will be touched with the academic tone. Her father's old profession, her own intellectual interests, and the ambitions of the groom all are bound together to put character and brains above wealth and display. After all, this is not a royal wedding; save that youth and love make all weddings royal, but it is just the union of two hopeful and eager young Americans, bent upon making their lives helpful to their fellows and to each other.

The nation can well delight to show the world such a charming vision. We are not envious of the princesses of Europe, our bride of the White House a princess because she is an American girl. She is modest, unpretentious, earnest of disposition, and infected with the best ideals of her time. Her husband has his share of the world's work to do, and he will find a true kingdom in his wife.

We toast the White House pair from the depths of the heart. The benediction of a nation's affection goes with them into their new life.

BRING TOURISTS TO AMERICA.

That is a good plan offered by Secretary Lane, of the Department of the Interior, to get foreign tourists to come to America. He proposes that the State Department co-operate to inform European travelers of the wonders and beauties of the United States by distributing literature and arousing interest in what we can show. In short, the department will "interact with the state department what we have and how it can be seen and the latter will invite foreigners to see it."

It must be freely lack of knowledge that keeps many travelers from seeing America. We have some of the most beautiful natural scenery in the world. In Virginia, for example, is the Natural Bridge, and a Gloucester where enchanting bays and rivers form a region almost as enchanting as the famous Riviera. The long list of wonders, from Niagara Falls to the Grand Canyon, need at the present. We could show the world the best even if we sometimes neglect them for long travel.

If we bring the high-toned, high-bred, and high-spirited tourists to America, we hope that it is nothing too difficult to attract the tourists from the United States.

Statistics collected by a well-known life insurance company show that during the last decade the indicated death rate from cancer increased 30 percent among the males and 25 percent among females in the United States registration bureaus. This is a sad situation, but it is less interesting if we consider that it is well known among medical scientists that from 20 to 30 per cent of other cases can be prevented by a simple and inexpensive operation in the earlier stages of the disease.

The Queen of Spain has the grippe.

Paris and the Kaiser has a cold,

and we take pleasure in recommending them, as well as to our other citizens, the health-giving and the comfortable climate that we can offer.

Five contemporaries have sought to saddle the world with trouble, which rests with the letter "G"—cash, clubs, commerce, colored, crabs, coal, coal-tar, charred, conviction, courage. All of these put together, however, are not in the making with the American Biological Society.

The American Biological Society has created a "bulletinless periodical." That is nothing. For generations Prince Edward county, Virginia, has produced the genuine bulletless periodical, *bulletin*.

FOR VIRGINIA EDUCATION.

Every agency for education in Virginia will gather in Lynchburg from to-day until Friday to discuss the problems that confront us in our endeavors to train the children of the Commonwealth for a larger and finer life. As education is the fundamental process in a democracy, so we are inclined to look upon this conference as the biggest annual event in our social life. A glance at the long and various programs, in which so many different aspects of education are represented, is encouraging enough. We certainly have the machinery for accomplishment.

There is, to begin with, the Kindergarten Union, in which the light of the Montessori method has become of fundamental importance in laying the basis for education. There is the State Teachers' Association, the departments of superintendents, trustees, rural teachers, principals, secondary schools, colleges and normal teachers. These bodies represent the personnel of the school system. There are the related interests, such as the Athletic Association, the Library Association, the Cooperative Educational Association and the Virginia Folk-Lore Society. There are the divisions, new in the past few years, of agricultural work and home economics. The array is imposing.

We are sure that far-reaching results come from such a gathering. Yet we would like to ask one question: is there not some danger that we cannot see the wood for the trees? Where on the program will the grave problem of arousing in the people a desire for education be discussed? Where will we talk over the fact that only one-third of the children who should be in schools are really in them, and that co-ordinate questions as to how we shall make 25 per cent of those who actually come more efficient physically, so that they can take advantage of the instruction offered? What influences from this meeting will work for a larger appreciation for education both from State and country?

Let us not get away from the basic difficulty. What we want is more raw material of a better quality. How shall we get it?

THE EFFICIENT PRINCIPLE.

Representatives of the American Civic Association visited most of the important capitals of Europe last summer. One fact impressed itself upon them—that no matter what might be the form of municipal government in the German cities, essentially the German method of efficient city government was a commission system, with rotation in office for some, but with some excepts in office for life.

Moreover, these investigators came to the conclusion that the commission form, with variations demanded by local and social conditions, "would mean the salvation of most American communities, but that the issue was rather one of men than of methods."

In Germany they discerned in all municipal employees, from the street sweepers up to a sense of service with strict adherence to duty which brings about the apparent marvels that concern every traveler, absolutely clean streets with the best possible engineering method of meeting municipal needs."

If any method is discovered to be antiquated or modern, it is dropped. The contractor is expected to do his work at a minimum rate; if he will not, the city will do the work its self, as it generally does.

It is likewise true that in England when the receipts grow beyond the amount which the officials may take under the law, to employ unnecessary help as a reward for political services or make unnecessary repairs or purchase unnecessary supplies merely to keep the money from going to the state. Few of the county clerks ever return any balance to the State, either often manage, by hook or crook, to eat up a large part of the money that the State should have."

In other States than Virginia and Maryland the fee system is under fire, although, of course, there is under Virginia's system no employment of unnecessary help or other unnecessary outlay of money, since all and not a part of the fees are retained by the fee officer, who naturally is not going to spend on his office equipment any more than is absolutely essential. Only in a few States in the South does the fee system survive. Its defenders are few, while its opponents are legion. In almost every case of survival the abuse goes far back into the days when governmental revenue was small. It is entrenched, it has gone on growing more burdensome, more unjust and more unbusinesslike.

Congratulations to the Newport News press upon its "Buster Edition." It is an excellent exhibit of a prosperous, enterprising and forward-looking community telling the story of growth and strength in a most striking manner.

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Instead of recording the deficiency in rainfall for Richmond, the weather man ought to tell the excess of sunshine.

A COUNCIL OF THE CONSTITUENCY.

B. F. Noland, M. D., member of the House of Delegates from Loudoun, is pursuing a course that should be that of every member of the General Assembly of Virginia.

Now that the people of his county have intrusted him with "the great distinction and responsibility of guarding their most sacred secular interests," he submits to them through the latest issue of the Hamilton Enterprise two propositions:

"First—I am the servant of the people, to make every honorable effort to accomplish everything in my power for the betterment of conditions in this county and State.

"Second—Being their servant, I want the interested taxpayers to hold a mass-meeting or delegated convention and declare in no uncertain tones for progress in politics or otherwise, and how desired ends may be accomplished, and outline the policies they wish me to follow."

The General Assembly of 1913 will have several matters of vital concern to the people before it, as Dr. Noland perceives, and he desires to reflect the will of his constituency, believing that law should be the crystallization of popular need and popular aspiration. As he says, "to be democratic and wholesome, legislation must be developed up from the people."

The specific questions which he would have the taxpayers meet and discuss are education, read-making, primaries, economy, publicity and retrenchment. Some definite and concerted action must be had with reference to these issues, or "the Democratic party will drift aimlessly, each one going his own way, while those in office excuse their inactivity or inefficiency through the fact that the party has not declared for anything."

It is not too late for a general adoption of the course followed by this representative from Loudoun. Some one must take the initiative in a matter of this sort, and none is in better position so to do than the legislator himself. If his constituents do not desire to assemble and inform him as to their attitude on public questions, after they have been afforded an opportunity, no harm is done; while, on the other hand, if they do concur, much good must result. If the people fail to declare their position, the legislator must rely upon his own discretion, which will not always truly mirror the people's will.

FIGHTING THE PEG SYSTEM IN MARYLAND.

Official fees collected yearly in Maryland amount to almost \$800,000, according to the estimate made last week by the Baltimore News. It is practically every office in that State the system applies to, with variations demanded by local and social conditions "would mean the salvation of most American communities, but that the issue was rather one of men than of methods."

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The citizen who pays fees under the prevailing system is a loser, because he could get the work done more cheaply if fixed salaries were paid, is the terrible argument being advanced in Maryland for the abolition of this antiquated method of compensating public officers. The State loses because it is not given satisfaction, and when it is entitled for the News testifies that "it has long been the custom in fee offices when the receipts grow beyond the amount which the officials may take under the law, to employ unnecessary help as a reward for political services or make unnecessary repairs or purchase unnecessary supplies merely to keep the money from going to the state. Few of the county clerks ever return any balance to the State, either often manage, by hook or crook, to eat up a large part of the money that the State should have."

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This testimony strengthens the findings of the National Municipal League's investigating committee that the city manager plan of municipal government is best, for the essence of that system is the commission principle. Under that form the commission itself need not be expert, but the general manager under it and his aids must be experts. Despite many criticisms, some of them from eminent students of government, such as President Lowell, of Harvard, and Newark Falls, to the Grand Canyon, need at the present. We could show the army before the State Department what we have and how it can be seen and the latter will invite foreigners to see it."

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WHAT WAS NEWS FIFTY YEARS AGO.

Reprinted from This Newspaper.

From the Army of Tennessee.

General Braxton has telegraphed General Samuel Cooper that his forces are holding all roads into Knoxville but one. The enemy's cavalry is almost broken up. Wheeler has cut off the enemy's train from Cumberland Gap to Knoxville.

The Gettysburg Cemetery Dedication.

Seven columns of the New York Herald are occupied with a description of the "National Necropolis" or cemetery at Gettysburg, Lincoln, Seward, several foreign ministers and other dignitaries were present. Lincoln was serenaded the night previous to the day on which the ceremony took place. He declined to make a speech on the ground that "in his position it was most impudent for him to speak." Everett's speech is published at length in the Herald, occupying six columns of small type.

Confederate Prisoners.

The United States is said to have 24,000 Confederate prisoners in its custody.

Negro Soldiers.

So far 16,000 negroes have been armed and mustered into the Federal service.

Historic Document Sold.

The original of the Emancipation Proclamation is said to have been purchased for \$1,000 by a Chicago doctor.

From Europe.

Lord Palmerston, in a speech at the Lord Mayor's banquet lately, deplored the American war. He said Englishmen would have interfered but for the belief that it would have been in vain. She therefore would yield neither to blandishments nor menaces, but remain strictly neutral.

The American ships, John Watt and Bob, have been captured by the Confederates.

The United States steamer Andrew Gibbons was at the Mauritius when last heard from, probably in search of the privateer Alabama.

The Emperor-elect of Mexico will set out for Mexico City about February 1. Mexican war vessels were ordered to make ready for a long voyage and it was supposed they were to convey Maximilian the monarch of the Atlantic.

The Emperor Napoleon, in his address to the French Legislature, said reference to the war in Mexico.

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Where Does the Whiskey Go?

What does the Confederate government do with its whiskey? asks the Lexington (Va.) Patriot. The Lexington is manufacturing at least the equivalent of nearly 200,000 gallons per year. Augusta County, 360,000 gallons, giving a total amount to the two counties of 560,000. Suppose these two counties to make a tenth of all that is made in the State, which is probably a low estimate, and we have 56,000 gallons of whiskey.

Where Does the Whiskey Go?

To-night, the New Richmond, Ernest Matthes